



*Karnataka's only English International
Journal on music and dance*

Gunagrahi

THE ACADEMY AWARDEES - 2001



R.R. KESHAVA MURTHY



H.R. KESHAVA MURTHY



DR. RAJIV TARANAT



B.V.K. SASTRY

Greetings to

GUNAGRAHI

from

Guru Malathi Iyengar & Family



Rangoli

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Gana Kala Bhushana M.R. Doraiswamy

Dr. M. Surya Prasad receiving Karnataka Kala Shri Award from Sant Bhadrargiri Achutha Das Culture Minister Rani Satish, Secretary A.R. Chandrahas Gupta, Director Y.K. Muddukrishna and Shamala Bhave are also seen

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Dr. A.H. Rama Rao & Sudha Rao Page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BANGALORE :

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan: At Khimcha auditorium daily at 6 P.M.: Feb.19 Bharatanatya "Rasa-Gathi" by Pulikeshi and Party. Feb.26 Shishirotsava 2000, a cultural evening by the students of the Bhavan to mark the second anniversary. March 5 Natarajotsava by Nrithya Kala Parishath.

Every Friday Cultural Evening Programme at Yavanika at 6.30 p.m.: Feb.18 Bharatanatya by R.Jyothi. Feb.25 Hindusthani vocal by Ashok Panth. March 3 Bharatanatya by Poornima Ashok.

Prasiddha Foundation: Eka Aneka, an all night festival of music and dance on March 4 at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath: Odissi by Sharon Lowen; Hindusthani vocal by Pandit Vinayak Torvi; Bharatanatya by Pratibha Prahlad; 25 veen ensemble by Suma Sudheendra; Vilasini Natya by Swapna Sundari; Odissi by Sangeeta Das; Karnatak vocal by S.Shankar; Kathak by Kathak Kendra, Bharatanatya by Chetan and Seshadr; and Sitar by Bale Khan.

Academy of Music: Chowdaiah Memorial Hill Millenium arts festival: at 6.30 p.m.: Mar.1 Sudha

Raghunathan(vocal) Mar.2 P.Unnikrishnan (vocal) and Mar.3 Shobhana (Bharatanatya).

Sri Rama Lalaittha Kala Mandir and Sri Devagiri Sangeetha Sabha: 11th Spring Music festival at 6 p.m.: Mar.8 R.K.Srikanthan (vocal) Highlight of the concert: Hemavathi raga. Mar.9 T.M.Krishna (vocal), highlight: Shyamalangi raga. Mar.10 Dr.Suma Sudheendra (veena) highlight; Kaikavashi raga. Mar.11 Malladi Brothers (vocal) Highlight: Nasika Bhushani. Mar.12 Nithyashree Mahadevan (vocal) highlight; Brindavana Saranga. Mar.13 T.S.Sathyavathi (vocal) highlight: Andolika raga. Mar.14 Laya Raga Sangama by Sukanya Ramgopal at 5.15 p.m. at 6.30 p.m.: Dance by Kalkshiti, directed by Prof.M.R.Krishnamurthy.

SRI RAMASUDHA CHARITABLE TRUST: Feb.23 at 5 p.m. at Sri Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, J.P.Nagar: M.Chandrasekharan (violin solo).

MYSORE:

Ganabharathi: Veene Seshanna Bhavana at 6 p.m.: Mar.12 vocal duet by Ramaprasad and

Ravikumar(Malladi brothers).

Shruti Manjari Foundation: Mar.11 at 6 P.m. at 271, 12th Main road, Saraswathipuram, Mysore. Veena by Pushpa Kashinath

SHIMOGA:

Sri Guruguha Gana Sabha: 3rd cross, Basavanagudi, Shimoga: Yuva Sangeetotsava: Feb.29 6 p.m. Goshti gayana. 7.25 p.m. R a j e s w a r i Nagendraprakash(vocal) 8.20 p.m. P.S.Subhadra(vocal). Mar.1: 6 pm Chitkala and Vatsala(vocal duet). 7.25 p.m. Kanchana V.Mamatha (violin solo). 8.20 p.m. H.K.Lakshmi(vocal). Mar.2 6.30 p.m. H. Gayatri(vocal). 7.25 p.m. Mattur Madhumurali(violin solo). 8.20 p.m. S.C.Ashwini(vocal). Mar.3 6.30 p.m. S.D.Banuma(vocal). 7.20 p.m. M.E.Nataraj(violin solo). 8.20 p.m. Rajani Ramdhani(vocal). Mar.4 5.30 pm Music Quiz. 7 P.m. Padmasri and Goda(vocalduet). 7.55 pm. J.S.Srikantha Bhat(vocal). Mar.5 9.30 A.m. T. Krishnamurthy (nagaswara). 6.30 p.m. J.Arunkumar (vocal). 7.25 p.m. Hosahalli K.Subbarao (violin solo). 8.20 p.m. G.Ganasri (vocal).



From the Editor General

VETERAN FLAUTIST HONOURED

Septuagenarian M.R.Doraiswamy is a veteran flautist of Karnataka. Hailing from a traditional family, Doraiswamy has been the torch bearer of the Karnatak classical music. Trained by a legendary flute maestro and vaggeyakara B.Narasinga Rao, Doraiswamy has been popular both in classical music and dance arenas. He "ventured" into the field of dance by accompanying great dancers of the past generation. He did to so when it was considered a taboo for a "classical musician" to accompany a dancer. He toured abroad with the top-notch dancers of Karnataka and Madras. He strove hard to keep the grandeur of Karnatak tradition through his unadulterated flute play. Doraiswamy holds the honours degree from the Madras Music college. He has been awarded "Karnataka Kala Shri" by the Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya Academy. He has trained good number of talented students.

Doraiswamy was presented the coveted title of "Gana Kala Bhushana" by the Karnataka Gana Kala Parishath on the valedictory day of its 30th music conference held at Bangalore Gayana Samaja. GUNAGRAHI greets him on this occasion.

KARNATAKA KALA SHRI PRESENTED

The most prestigious award of "Karnataka Kala Shri" of Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya Academy, an autonomous body of musicians/artistes for the year 1999-2000 was presented by veteran Harikatha vidwan Sant Bhadrageiri Achuta Das at Ravindra Kalakshetra. Fifty artistes from Karnataka, Hindusthani, Sugama Sangeetha, Harikatha, art criticism, Sangeetha Shastra fields were felicitated with a beautiful Natya Saraswathi idol, a purse of Rs.5000/-, a shawl, a citation with a title of "Karnataka Kala Shri" etc. The president of the Academy Ubhaya Gana Vidushi Shyamala G.Bhave and other members of the Academy deserve to be commended for awarding Horanada Kannadiga, Videshi Kannadiga and also award for the instrument makers and music institution. GUNAGRAHI'S greetings to all the awardees.

- Karnataka Kala Shri DR.M.SURYA PRASAD

REVIEW



BANGALORE BUZZ:

Natya Niketana Anniversary

The highlight of the 17th anniversary programme of Natya Niketan led by Guru Revathi Narasimhan (this year's "Karnataka Kala Shri" awardee) was that four senior students of the Niketan were given an opportunity to choreograph the numbers, train the junior students and present the same during the anniversary celebrations at ADA Rangamandira.

It was a happy thing to note that the students-seniors in choreographing the items with refined imagination and artistic skills and the juniors doing well in executing them-brought laurels to their Guru. Everything was neat and tidy.

The todayam was followed by a krithi in Kamavardhini raga "Shambho Mahadeva" enumerating the elegance of Lord Shiva. Sandhya displayed her rich manodharma in composing the dance. A group of five dancers comprising Ramya Mohan, Tejaswini, Smitha,

Mythrayi and Vindhya covering the stage in attractive patterns was able to sketch the attributes of the Lord Shiva in a praiseworthy manner.

Dancer T.K.Shobha made the Purandaradasa devaranama "Aadidano Ranga" in Arabhi raga a captivating one. She had brought novelty in the presentation by padding up the theme with meaningful

Nivedita, Madhavi, Shravani, Shrutakeerthi and Marshini gave a good account of themselves in rendering this item.

It was a visually delightful experience to watch an Antahapura Geethe by Dr.DVG being presented by highly talented Anupama, Suhasini Krishnamurthy, Shobha, Akhila, Prakruti, Lekha, Saritha and Sushma. The Shilabaaalikaas (dancing damsels) of the Belur Temple come alive and dance in a graceful manner. The debate which takes place as to the greatness of these dancers was beautifully



Students of Nruthya Nikethana

sancharees. Young Krishna's playfulness alongwith the human welfare activity were highlighted in the portrayal of the devaranama.

Anupama and Suhasini Krishnamurthy had worked out a Jatiswara in Yadukula Kambhoji raga in such a manner as to bring into light their correct understanding and commendable command over the laya. The nritta had striking variety. Lavanya Vijayakumar, Pratibha, Shreya, Rahita, Chadana, Aditi, Yashaswini, Kripa,

conceptualised by Guru Revathi Narasimhan. So did the dancers. The abhinaya and other technicalities of each of the dancers was of a high class.

Suhasini Krishnamurthy exhibited her talents in composing dance for the most popular Bilahari Swarajathi "Raara Venugopala" using the Krishna-theme to the maximum effect.

Guru Revathi Narasimhan (nattuvanga), D.S.Srivatsa (vocal), Madhusudan (violin),

Gurumurthy (mridanga), Prasannakumar (percussions) and H.S.Venugopal (flute) lived upto their reputation as useful accompanists.

Impeccable Nachiketa Sharma



Young and talented singer Nachiketa Sharma, now settled in the US endeared himself to the audience at the Indian Institute of World Culture, that accorded him an enthusiastic reception at his recital along with his able accompanists Rajagopal Kalyan (tabla), Umakantha Puranik (harmonium) and Poonam Sharma and Rajashri Nath (tanpuras).

Never a hint of overweening presumption. Nachiketa's self-confidence and innate musicality steered him through the demanding programme with the exceedingly warm and sensitive collaboration with his co-musicians.

The rendition of Yaman and Puriya Dhanashri vouched for his rich musical imagination. With impeccable intonation and flexibility in his voice, the young interpreter of Hindustani music governed a

rich and expressively varied gamakas and sargams and many a speedy light trill with effortless ease. Having been groomed by great maestros of music, he proved that he is on the threshold of entering the top-slot of his medium. He will

no doubt acquire the finish and virtuoso proficiency of his school in time.

Mastery of his artistic expression

followed in the singing of a Vachana "Parachinte namageke". What I found pleasing about his approach was his natural beckoning of the manners of the old singers' school, that elegance and style and those expressive subtleties evident in his Puriya Dhanashri, for instance.

His phrasing, each detail in place and his control whether it came to range of dynamics or laya or sensitivity, shot up his communicative power and intensity.

Mavin Khoo mesmerizes

Young Mavin Khoo, a Malaysian and settled in London regaled the audience at Bangalore Gayana Samaja with his exhilarating Bharatanatya. I was happy to find him at home in every department of the dance form. The way he dealt with the korvais and complex jatis was astonishing. Born in an

entirely alien culture and atmosphere, his dint of dedication has made him an achiever. His Bharatanatya-accomplishments are wonderful.

Captivatingly supported by Neevin Harmar (nattuvanga), Ramesh Chadaga (vocal), Vinod Kungarapalli (violin), V.R.Chandrasekhar (mridanga) and Srihari (morsing), Mavin Khoo delighted the rasikas with his neat anga shuddhi (though at times his ardhmandalis



seemed to be odd), exquisite nritta and aesthetic abhinaya.

Mavin reached the summit of his talent in the presentation of a varna in Khamach raga by Ponnaiah Pillai "Swamini rammanave". There was novelty in his approach. Here the nayika addresses animals and birds and wants to know the whereabouts of her nayika. The message that "no one is equal to Him" was well served. One was impressed

Karnataka Kala Shri (1999-2000) Awardees



B. Parashuraman



V.S. Rajagopal



B.D. Venugopal



E.P. Allame



Bellary Venkateshachar



Neela Ramagopal



G.V. Ranganayakamma



H.V. Venkateshaiah



T.A.S. Mani



B.S. Chandrakala



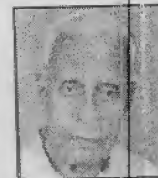
P.G. Laxminarayana



Jambu Kannan



Yamanamma



Narayana G. Modak



Malleshappa Pattar



Kamalabai Rajeesa



Madhukara Ganesha
Patavardhan



Janaki Iyer



Sharada Hangal



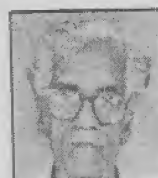
Sita A. Kagal



K. Hanumantappa



Sheshappa Gabbur



Karur V. Thimmappa



K.S. Mani



B. Bhanumathi

Karnataka Kala Shri (1999-2000) Awardees



Revathi Narasimhan



G.S. Rajalaxmi



Uma Rao



Shamala Muralikrishna



Chennakeshava



Basavangudi G. Nataraj



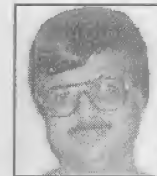
Saroja Natarajan



R. Indira



P.S. Vasantha



Yeswantha Halabandi



Dr. Rohini Mohan



R. Venkateshmurthy



Laxmandas Velankar



Laxmandas



M.B. Budan sab



Indira Venkatesh



P.A. Giridhar



T.G. Gundera



R.S. Anantharamaiah



Dr. M. Surya Prasad



V. Nanjundaswamy



S.C.R. Bhat



Kamala Ramamurthy

K.N. Arkasali
and
Bangalore Sangeeta Sabha

March 2-9, 2000

Khajuraho Festival of Dances 2000

2nd March

Alamel Kalu Bhattacharya
Malika Sambhar Kundrath

3rd March

Sonal Menon Singh Odissi
Madhura Bhowmik and
Ranjana Bhattacharya Bharata

4th March

Amrita Senapati Kathak
Kalamandalam Kanan
Ratna Devi Kathakali

5th March

Manjula Chakrabarty Odissi
Sonal Menon Singh Odissi

6th March

Ratna Devi Kathak
Kanan Kalamandalam

7th March

Sonal Menon Singh Bhattacharya
Kuntal Lalit & Trupti Kathak

8th March

Omida Sathyanarayana Bharata
Ganesh Lalit Kathak
Dance Academy Manipuri

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